

# The Pileup

## Newsletter of the CDXA

### 2015 Field Day

Dick Williams, W3OA

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It's not too early to start thinking about Field Day. Operations will be Saturday and Sunday, June 27 and 28. CDXA will be operating W4DXA from the QTH of KI4TZ, Joe Barkley's



home and station just north of Chester, SC. The picture shows Dick, W3OA, Bill, W4GRW, Chris, WW4CP, and John, W3SA, at Field Day last year wearing the handsome tee shirts each CDXA participant received. We will have a similar, but different color, shirt again. This year, people who sign up to participate early will get to vote on the shirt color. Next month's Pileup will have more details on our plans.

For now, please put June 27 and 28 on your calendar and let me know when you can operate and your preferred mode, CW or SSB. I also need your tee shirt size and vote for the color. Email me at [w3oa@roadrunner.com](mailto:w3oa@roadrunner.com).

CDXA PacketCluster & Other Communication Systems	
K4MD (AR Cluster via Telnet)	k4md.no-ip.com
W4DXA (AR Cluster via Telnet)	w4dxa.no-ip.com
CDXA Repeater 147.18 MHz (+600 )	W4DXA, Near Fort Mill, SC
World Wide Web Homepage	<a href="http://www.cdxa.org">www.cdxa.org</a>
Wednesday Luncheon (11:30 AM)	Skyland Family Restaurant, 4544 South Boulevard, Charlotte, NC

## OK, Now Let's Talk RTTY! .....RTTY DX exchanges in particular

By Lou Dietrich, N2TU

As most of you now know, I am somewhat of a RTTY aficionado (nut), having chased RTTY DXCC for almost 40 years. RTTY DXing is an enjoyable, all consuming, mostly rewarding and sometimes frustrating endeavor.

As a DXCC RTTY operator, you will be challenged by a number of issues, for instance;

*Technical-* which decoder to use? MMVARI, MMTTY, N1MM, 2Tone, Fldigi, DM780, or a hardware based solution? Should you use FSK or AFSK. How will your rig interface with the decoder?

*Operational-* where are the RTTY subbands? Where are the different Baudot RTTY, PSK31, JT65 subbands? What do they sound like? Why can't I decode them?

Well folks, I won't address any of the above! Sorry, but you are on your own!

...Well, you aren't really on your own, because there are reams of information on the web on how to start using the digital modes. The absolute gold standard on 'how to' set-up and run RTTY is <http://www.aa5au.com/rtty/getting-started-on-rtty/>. Don Hill, AA5AU, has written an outstanding, step by step instruction guide which is

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The purpose of the association is to secure for the members the pleasures and benefits of the association of persons having a common interest in Amateur Radio.

Members of the CDXA shall adhere to "The Amateur's Code" as published from time to time in *The ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs*, and shall consist of those valid licensed amateur operators having an interest in promoting amateur radio. Long distance communications (DX) is of special interest to members of the association, but said interest is not a requirement of membership.

Yearly dues are \$25.00. A second licensed Amateur family member living in the same household can join for \$5.00 for a total family price of \$30.00 per year. The total price for 3 or more licensed family members living in the same household is only \$35.00 per year. All family members enjoy full member status. Dues are payable annually in December by check or through [the CDXA website](http://www.cdxa.org), to the Secretary/Treasurer:

Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL  
P. O. Box 577  
Davidson, NC 28036

Address, telephone, and email address changes should be directed to the Secretary/Treasurer at the above address or via email at: [jcw53@cornell.edu](mailto:jcw53@cornell.edu).

used as a reference by novice and grizzled RTTY ops frequently.

Similarly, there is reference material on how to run the myriad of other digital modes. Just do a search and read!

Having been on the DX side of the RTTY pile-ups, I do have a few suggestions which may help get you in the log, accurately and without too much angst!

The following are my personal observations from the Swains, Wake and recently Navassa RTTY operation. Each RTTY DX operator is different; however we all share the same traits.

Capture the caller's call quickly and accurately,  
Transmit the exchange,  
Move on!

Now for how you can help!.....

Listen for the operator's instructions. If they say 'UP', they mean 'UP'. Before you make the first call, be 100% sure your rig is in split. Think, look, think again and then call. It is better to be 5 seconds slower in joining the pile-up than to advertise your call on the wrong frequency.

If the operator says listening '.080 to .090'...do not assume the operator will only listen on '.080 and .090'. Spread out. A RTTY pile-up sounds like an aggravated beehive on the DX side. Look for an open frequency and STAY there. The DX operator will find you. Hint, you might even go a few cycles above and below!

Only repeat your call two times. Three at a maximum! If the DX operator can't pick your call out after two or three iterations, get a bigger station! (just kidding!)

Do not tail end! Each QSO must have a beginning and an end. I have made it a habit of never answering a tail-ender. Other operators might, but I don't. Sorry!

Never send your state unless asked. It is a total waste of precious time. The DX operation isn't applying for Worked All States! Check your Macros and delete the state.

(Continued from page 2)

Please don't send your name. I know we all want to be known but the operator has no interest. They just want to log you and move on! Sometimes the DX operator will recognize you by name, which makes for a warm and fuzzy feeling on both ends.

Send your Call, 599, and your Call. For example, 'N2TU 599 N2TU'. Quick and dirty! If the DX operator wants a repeat or more, they will ask.

Do not send 'N2TU 599 599 de N2TU'. There is absolutely no reason for the two '599's' or 'de'. Again, it wastes precious time and the DX operator gets impatient and just wants to move on.

So now, let's see the whys of the above...only looking at the exchanges....

An efficient "Yea, baby!" exchange would go something like this:

- DX station calls you: 'W4XX 599 W4XX'- that takes approximately 5.5 seconds.
- You calling the DX: 'W4XX 599 W4XX'- that also takes 5.5 seconds. (I prefer seeing your call twice for accuracy.)

And now for the 'chatty' exchange....

- DX station: 'W4XX 599 W4XX'- that takes approximately 5.5 seconds.
  - You: 'W4XX 599 599 W4XX'- that takes approximately 9.0 seconds.
- Or worse, "W4XX 599 599 Leon in Fla. W4XX"- that take a whopping 17.5 seconds!

The above times are measurements taken in Audicity from on air recordings. It only wastes a few seconds, but when you multiply that by thousands of RTTY QSOs, you get many, many, lost chances of either you or someone else getting in the log. Also, the DX station will copy everything accurately, concisely and with less chance of an error if the exchange is short and to the point.

OK, call me picky or persnickety. Maybe, but I've been

called worse!

Try the above. I'd be interested in hearing your results and I will welcome the chance to work you from the 'far side'. Soon, I hope!

73, Lou, N2TU



Here's Lou, practicing what he preaches, and modeling the latest in headphone attire, operating RTTY at K1N.

There are some more of Lou's pictures from Navassa on Pages 5 and 6. Thanks Lou!

## New Members

CDXA had a great crop of new members join the Club at the recent Charlotte Hamfest. Let's welcome the following to CDXA:

**W4QNW**, Sherwin Tames, 26 Raymond Rd., Bluffton, SC 29909, 908-705-7310, [cqw4qnw@gmail.com](mailto:cqw4qnw@gmail.com);

**NC4ON**, Stefan Colle, 7177 Seagrass Ci., Denver, NC 28037, [scolle@msn.com](mailto:scolle@msn.com);

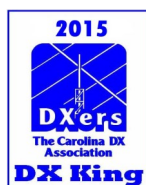
**K4HC**, C.W. Thompson, 2802 David Caldwell Dr., Greensboro, NC 27408, 336-402-2210, [k4hc@triad.rr.com](mailto:k4hc@triad.rr.com)

**N4CE**, Paul Patterson, 125 Woodstone Dr., Stoneville, NC 27048, 336-453-4218, [n4ce\\_patterson@yahoo.com](mailto:n4ce_patterson@yahoo.com);

**N4IB**, Tim Slay, 141 Queens Cove Rd., Mooresville, NC 28117, 704-799-7800, [n4ib@arrl.org](mailto:n4ib@arrl.org);

**AE8J**, Andy Kunik, 1625 Restless One Ln., Rock Hill, SC 29730, 803-324-4024, [akunik@bellsouth.net](mailto:akunik@bellsouth.net).





## DX King News

Dick Williams, W3OA

Item 1: Full details of our DX King Contest and your chances to win an MFJ-891 Giant SWR/Wattmeter are on page 9 of the [January Pileup](#).

Item 2: Here are the reports for the 2015 DX King competition. These are the scores I have as of March 31:

Call	Category	Countries	Zones	Total
K5EK	Unlimited	246	40	286
K7BV	Unlimited	225	40	265
AA4SC	Unlimited	206	40	246
W3GQ	Unlimited	201	37	238
W3ZL	Formula	171	36	207
K2SX	Unlimited	154	37	191
K8YC	Unlimited	152	34	186
K4HC	Limited	142	35	177
W3OA	Unlimited	138	37	175
KI4TZ	Unlimited	135	35	170
K4FS	Unlimited	133	31	164
NK0S	Unlimited	130	35	164
NV4A	Unlimited	121	26	147
K4SD	Unlimited	115	31	146
W4UFO	Unlimited	110	32	142
N4GBK	Limited	114	26	140
W4WNT	Formula	107	28	135
K2SD	Unlimited	103	29	132
K1MIJ	Unlimited	85	25	110
KZ2I	Unlimited	77	27	104
K4MLD	Unlimited	49	23	72

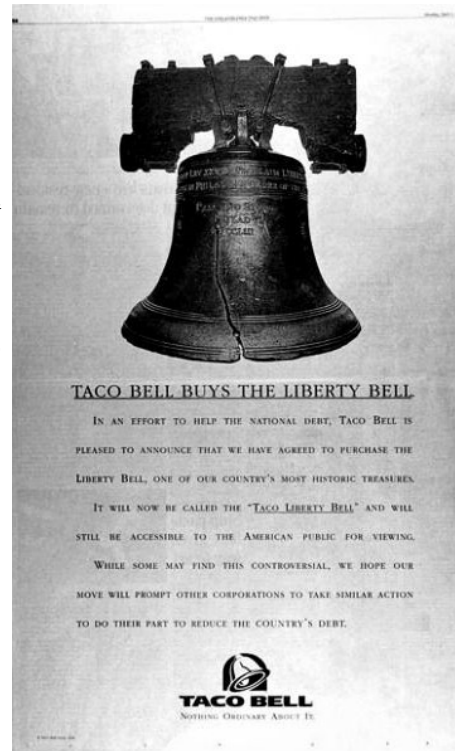
Item 3: Don't forget to send me ([w3oa@roadrunner.com](mailto:w3oa@roadrunner.com)) your DX marathon scores as of the last day of each month after your score reaches 100.

## It's April

...but with all the real Ham-related events and announcements, from the fact that there is an actual, real, possible, DXpedition to P5, to the interesting take on remote operation by the ARRL, I was somewhat idea-deprived, so I decided to search for the best April Fools pranks of all time. It

turned out that my personal favorite, from the April 1st 1996 edition of the *Washington Post* and six or seven of the other "major" newspapers, was included. Here's a copy of the full-page ad that appeared in the A Section. I saw it while flipping through the paper, immediately took a pair of scissors, snipped it out, and stuck it on

the wall of my home office. I can't say my wife thought too much of it, and it mysteriously disappeared during our move to NC.

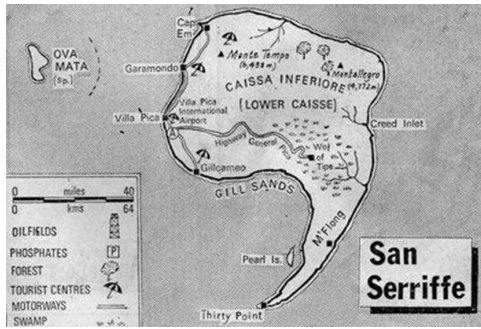


The general response to the announcement was immediate, with a combination of outraged and happy citizens overwhelming the phones at the National Park Service. Taco Bell put out a Press Release just a few hours after the announcement hit the street explaining that it was fake, but that didn't stop the clamor. It did, however, increase Taco Bell's business dramatically for a few days at least. The then White House Press Secretary, Mike McCurry, even got in on the act, when he was asked about the sale. Thinking on his feet, he responded that the Lincoln Memorial had also been sold. It would now be known, he said, as the Ford Lincoln Mercury Memorial.

...and didya know that Taco Bell is named for its founder Marvin Taco. OK, the founder of Taco Bell was actually named Glen Bell, who passed away in 2010.

## It's April, cont.

There was one other April Fools joke I found on multiple "Top Ten" lists that we, as Hams, might wish had actually been true, since it would have meant a new entity for us to work, or for a great vacation style DXpedition.



On April 1, 1977, the London newspaper, *The Guardian*, published a special seven-page supplement devoted to San Serriffe, a small republic said to consist of several semi-colon-shaped islands located in the Indian Ocean. A series of articles affectionately described the geography and culture of this obscure nation. Its two main islands were named Upper Caisse and Lower Caisse. Its capital was Bodoni, and its leader was General Pica. The *Guardian's* phones rang all day as readers sought more information about the idyllic holiday spot. Only a few noticed that everything about the island was named after printer's terminology, ...or that it was April 1st.

## We have a Winner!

CDXA had a booth at RARS-Fest, The Raleigh Hamfest, and gave away another Toshiba Windows Tablet. Here's a picture of Paul Jones, K4VCF, the happy winner, receiving his prize at last week's Wednesday lunch.



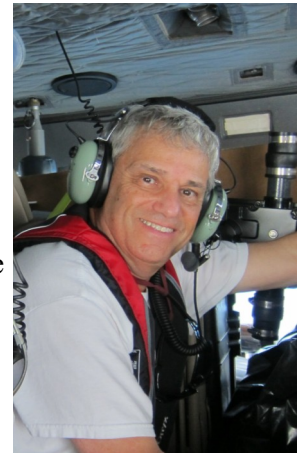
## Images from Navassa

For your viewing pleasure, here are some more pictures of Navassa Is., mostly provided by Lou from the recent K1N DXpedition.



Here's Lou at LuLu Bay. Seems appropriate, huh?

And here's Lou in the helicopter on the way to Navassa. Compare this clean-cut look with the picture of Lou on Page 3.



A shot of part of "Navassa Power and Light." Even a bunch of K3s can soak up a lots of power and gasoline, when running full-time.



April, 2015



A beautiful sunrise, or is it a sunset (?) on Navassa.

And finally, a “Then and Now” comparison of getting to and from Navassa (The “Then” picture is compliments of K4MQG.)



Living and operating conditions may not have changed too much, but the transportation sure has!

April, 2015

## The Back Page

- It may be hard to believe, but it's time to start planning for Field Day again. Have a look at the article on Page 1, mark your calendars, and stand by for more details next month.
- Thanks to Lou, N2TU, who helped fill lots of pages with a really good, and pertinent, article on working RTTY DX, from both sides of the pileup, and also with some additional pictures from Navassa Is.
- It's April, and lacking any really good ideas (...which many of you would say I've lacked the last couple of years as well), I dug out a couple of the top April Fools jokes and pranks of all time. See Pages 4 and 5.
- Another Hamfest has come and gone, and Paul Jones, K4VCF, won the tablet computer raffled off by CDXA at RARSFest.

See ya'll again next month. Please remember that any and all articles and pictures are welcome. We have one story already ready to go, sort of in the "coat hanger antenna" category.

73,  
John, NV4A

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**First Class Mail**

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